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Sep 5th 2018

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to urge you to reject the May 4, 2018 petition from USTelecom and thereby keep the existing line-sharing rules. These rules are critical for providing competition, particularly in small cities and rural areas. Even though my city of Half Moon Bay, California is only 25 miles from both San Francisco and Palo Alto in the heart of Silicon Valley, we have extremely limited options for home internet service. As I am a computer networking professional, this access is critical for me to be able to respond to problems at my workplace at all hours of the day and night.

Currently we can only choose between a large, impersonal cable company with no local presence and a terrible reputation for customer service and DSL over the legacy AT&T copper infrastructure. When I had service from AT&T, it was expensive and repair visits typically had at least a week's delay. Having the line-sharing rules in place has enabled much needed competition by our local ISP which I have been using for over a decade. They not only offer a range of value-priced DSL options, but also an excellent analog voice service over the same wires. And on the few occasions when there has been a problem, a professional technician has arrived at our residence within 24 hours to deal with the issue.

To further indicate how dependent we are on this, AT&T is my cellphone provider, but signal coverage is so spotty that they have provided me a microcell unit free-of-charge for my home - of course, that microcell is relaying all my calls over DSL through my local ISP. Thus, even some of AT&T is dependent on my access via line-sharing.

Again I urge you to keep the current line-sharing rules in place.

John Gerth